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## 108 Midwest Partnership Invites State to Designate Region As An 'Iowa Great Places'

In response to an initiative announced by Governor Tom Vilsack earlier this year, Midwest Partnership has invited the Great Places Advisory Committee to look at the three-county region as one of three pilot areas that will be named as "Iowa Great Places." The challenge offered by Vilsack combines the services and resources of 18 state agencies as a "one stop shop." The intent of the program is to challenge Iowans to be bold and creative in re-imagining their "place", and a challenge to state government to do their work in a different, more responsive way.

Over the next few months the region will have access to a "coach" to help them prepare to make a final presentation to the Great Places Citizen Advisory Board in September in hopes of becoming one of the pilot project areas. The initiative focuses on seven aspects for each place:

- A Unique Sense of Place
- Engaging Experiences
- A Rich Social Fabric
- A Vital Economy
- A Pleasing Environment
- A Strong Foundation
- A Creative Culture

"These aspects are each affected by the work that Midwest Partnership does throughout our region. While we focus directly on some of them, others are indirectly affected by us and our partners in each community, such as the city, chamber of commerce, and local development boards," stated Angie Duncan, Planning and Community Program Manager for Midwest Partnership.

Over the next month a team of representatives from each of the 21 communities and three counties will be assembled to work with the coaches provided in preparation of presenting the Midwest Partnership Region (Adair, Greene and Guthrie Counties) as a great place. For more information, or to volunteer as a representative for your area, please contact Midwest Partnership at 641-755-3456.